

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00720 080845Z
ACTION EUR-12

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H-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05
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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: SHUM, CGEN, CVIS, PFOR, CSE, BU
SUBJECT: STATISTICAL REPORTING ON FAMILY VISITS; GOB PERFORMANCE
BETTER THAN PREVIOUSLY SUSPECTED

REF: A) STATE 064901; B) SOFIA 0647
IF1. SPURRED BY GOB LIST OF ADDITIONAL DIVIDED FAMILY CASES
RESOLVED (REF A) WHICH, AS POINTED OUT REF ,INCLUDED
CASES IN WHICH EMBASSY HAD ISSUED VISAS WITHOUT KNOWING
FAMILY VISIT OR REUNIFICATION WAS INVOLVED, EMBASSY HAS
REVIEWED VISA ISSUANCE FILES FOR PERIOD JANUARY 1976 TO
MARCH 1977. BASED ON THIS REVIEW, WE HAVE PREPARED FOLLOWING
CHART WHICH SHOWS 145 VISITORS' VISAS WERE ISSUED IN 1976 TO
APPLICANTS WHOSE PURPOSE MAY REASONABLY BE IDENTIFIED AS
FAMILY VISIT. IDENTIFICATION WAS MADE BY CHECKING NAME AND,
WHERE INDICATED, RELATIONSHIP TO SPONSOR AS SHOWN ON APPLI-
CATION FORM, OR RE-CHECKING INFORMATION SUPPLIED UNDER
"PURPOSE OF VISIT". THESE CASES ARE IN ADDITION TO THOSE WE HAD
PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED AS INVOLVING FAMILY VSITATION.

	1976	1977
JANUARY	4	13
FEBRUARY	11	10
MARCH	8	24
APRIL	13	

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MAY	18
JUNE	13
JULY	19
AUGUST	20
SEPTEMBER	10
OCTOBER	9
NOVEMBER	10

DECEMBER	10	
TOTALS	145	47

2. IN ALL THESE CASES, EMBASSY PROCESSED VISITORS' VISAS "ROUTINELY," I.E. UPON RECEIPT FROM GOB OF PASSPORT AND VISA APPLICATION. GOB REGULATIONS PROHIBIT APPLICANTS FROM CONTACTING FOREIGN EMBASSIES WHILE APPLICATIONS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. THUS, UNLESS IT IS A COMPLICATED CASE INVOLVING REFUSALS, APPEALS, OR PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN OBTAINING DOCUMENTATION FROM US SPONSORS, APPLICANTS ORDINARILY ARE NOT INTERVIEWED BY CONSUL. IN THESE 1976 AND 1977 CASES, OUR FILE CONTAINS NO INFORMATION TO SHOW WHETHER APPLICANT HAD TRIED AND FAILED IN PAST TO GET PERMISSION FOR VISIT, WHETHER HOSTAGE FAMILY MEMBERS REMAINED IN BULGARIA TO ENSURE RETURN, WHETHER US SPONSOR HAD DEPARTED BULGARIA "ILLEGALLY," ETC. SIMILARLY, WE HAVE NO WAY OF ASSESSING WHAT PERCENTAGE OF APPLICANTS FOR FAMILY VISIT TRAVEL WERE SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING GOB PASSPORTS AND EXIT PERMITS SINCE WE DO NOT KNOW THE TOTAL NUMBER WHO APPLIED TO GOB DURING THAT PERIOD.

3. FOREGOING NUMBERS MAKE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT SIGNIFICANT LEVEL OF HITHERTO UNREPORTED FAMILY VISITS HAS GONE ON IN PAST WITHOUT EMBASSY REPRESENTATION IN INDIVIDUAL CASES. IT IS INTERESTING THAT TOTAL VISITS DURING FIRST QUARTER OF 1977 ARE DOUBLE THOSE IN CORRESPONDING QUARTER OF 1976 AND EQUAL ROUGHLY ONE-THIRD OF 1976 ISSUANCES.
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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